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Good afternoon, Chairs Stillman and Fleishmann, and Ranking Members Boucher and Ackert, and members of the Education Committee. Today, I would like to comment on House Bills 5331, *An Act Concerning the Implementation of the Revisions to the PEAC Guidelines*, and 5078, *An Act Imposing a Moratorium on the Implementation of the Common Core State Standards*.

As you are aware, these are the two bills our caucus petitioned under Joint Rule 11 because we felt it was critically important that the issues surrounding the PEAC guidelines and Common Core receive a full public hearing of this Committee. Our constituents have been very vocal in sharing their opinions on these two important topics affecting Connecticut students, teachers, school administrators, and parents. It is our hope that this public hearing will provide information, clarity and guidance surrounding the revised PEAC Guidelines and the Common Core Curriculum.

House Bill 5331 addresses recent revisions to the PEAC guidelines for teacher evaluations. At a January 29th meeting of the PEAC council, Governor Malloy addressed the group, urging the adoption of certain recommendations to the existing teacher performance evaluation guidelines. House Bill 5331 essentially formalizes those recommendations, among which include: an outlet for local and regional boards of education, and each district's professional development evaluation committees to discuss and share their issues involving the teacher evaluation program, reduce the number of formal classroom evaluations to one per school year, reduce the amount of goals to be established by each teacher to one, streamline data management, and protect electronic teacher evaluation data, and perhaps most importantly, enable the exclusion of student scores on statewide mastery tests, including the Smarter Balanced assessment test, from being factored into a teacher's evaluation for the next school year.

House Bill 5078 calls for a one year delay of the implementation of the Common Core Standards in order for the State Department of Education to consult with certain education stakeholders, collect data, and report back to the General Assembly on its findings. During that time, money appropriated to the State Department of Education for the purposes of implementing the

Common Core is also delayed, so that we can literally pause, take stock, and decide based on the study's findings, how we as a state should proceed. In putting forth these 2 bills, our caucus hopes to create the proper forum by which the legislature can communicate and hear from ALL the stakeholders affected by these issues, not just a chosen few.

By petitioning these bills forward in the legislative process, the House Republican Caucus is simply listening to the voices of many and providing them the outlet and action they desire to be heard on these two issues. I thank you for your time and consideration regarding Bills 5331 and 5078, and will be happy to provide you with any additional information that you may require.